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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/875,542	06/06/2001	Ruk Peterson	LEH-33	6908

7590 06/10/2003
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EXAMINER

PATTERSON, MARIE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.K.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,542

Applicant(s)

PETERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Marie Patterson

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3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fortin (5457898).

Fortin shows a shoe comprising a sole (12), a toe cap (15), an upper (14), and a metatarsal guard (11) with a convex arch/instep portion (shown in figure 1), and a single right and complementary left leg (side portions which lead to edge 13) as claimed. In reference to the limitation of "only a single", the fact that the single legs shown in Fortin include a slit does not increase the number of legs, and/or the portion forward of the slit can be considered to be a front flange or part for the lip which overlies the toe cap. In reference to the limitation of "said convex arch portion having a section immediately rearward of the support legs which does not bear against the sole, Fortin clearly shows such at the location of the arrow from number 10 in figure 2 .

3. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krajcir (4908963).

Krajcir shows a shoe with a toe cap (8), sole (5-7), and metatarsal guard (figure 2b) which has a single concave right support leg (formed by 10, 11, and 14), and a single left support leg (formed by 10, 11, and 14), both legs show a section immediately rearward of the support legs which does not bear against the sole (clearly shown in figure 2b), a lip (front element 10) which

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overlies the toe cap (see figure 1), and the bottom of the legs contacting the top of the sole (shown in figure 1) as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortin.

If applicant argues that the legs of Fortin are not considered to be "only a single..." because of the flexibility slit (19) formed in the legs, it has been held that omission of an element and its function in a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before involves only routine skill in the art. In re Karlson, 135 USPQ 184. It would have been obvious to remove the slit (19) from the shoe of Fortin to provide a stronger and stiffer shoe.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 5/9/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicants' arguments directed towards Fortin, Fortin is considered to show a single leg, either a single leg which has flexibility slits (as discussed above), or single legs (portions rear of slit) and front flange/lip portions (elements shown forward of slit. Fortin clearly shows a section of the convex arch portion rearward of the legs which does not bear on the sole (shown clearly in figure 2).

In response to applicants' arguments directed towards Krajcir, the fact that the legs of Krajcir have portions of different thicknesses which form the single leg, does not negate the fact that Krajcir shows a single leg. Krajcir clearly states "the webs 14, 15, and 16 are simply areas of reduced cross-section which permit flexing of the guard" (column 2 lines 18-20), i.e. the ribs (10, 11, 12, and 13) are integral (one piece) with the webs (14, 15, and 16) and therefore elements 10-16 are a single integrally molded element, i.e. a single leg.

In response to applicants' arguments directed towards the 103 rejection based on Fortin, the removal of the flexibility slits would not destroy the intended purpose of the Fortin reference. The shoe of Fortin clearly would function as a protective element, i.e. the remaining elements perform the same functions as before (clearly as recited in the cited case law *In re Karlson* 136 USPQ 184). The case law also provides that it is obvious to remove an element *and its function*.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

1. Telephone inquiries regarding the status of application or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, "should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the Examiners. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiners", M.P.E.P. 203.08. The Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148 or the **Tech Center 3700 Customer Service Center number is (703) 306-5648**. For applicant's convenience, the Group Technological Center FAX number is (703) 872-9302. (Note that the Examiner **cannot** confirm receipt of faxes) Please identify Examiner ____ of Art Unit ____ at the top of your cover sheet of any correspondence submitted.

Inquiries only concerning the **merits** of the examination should be directed to Marie Patterson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0069.

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g. copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, for PTO-892, etc. requests for copies of such papers should be directed to (703) 308-1337.

Check out our web-site at "www.uspto.gov" for fees and other useful information.



Marie Patterson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728